राशि को देश में उपभोक्ताओं से वसूल करने हेतु पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि करने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया गया था,

(घ) यदि हां, तो प्रस्ताव की रूपरेखा क्या थी, और

(ड़) क्या सरकार ने देश में पेट्रोलयम उत्पादों की कीमतें बढ़ाने के संबंध में कोई अन्तिम निर्णय लिया है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा) : (क) और (ख) जबकि डालर की तुलना में रुपए की विनियम दर में हाल के परिवर्तनों के कारण अब तक सौदा की गई मात्राओं में लिए भारतीय रुपए के संबंध में आयात बिल में वृद्धि हुई है, वहीं 1995-96 के लिए आयात बिल में निश्चित वृद्धि वर्ष 1995-96 की शेष अवधि के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में कच्चे तेल और पेट्रोलियम उत्पादों के मूल्यों पर निर्भर होगी।

(ग) से (ड़) वर्तमान समय में ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Illegal siphoning of funds of the eafarers Welfare Fund Society

1638. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has investigated into the illegal siphoning of the funds of the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society to the tune of Rs. 1.25 crores;

(b) if so, what are the details of CBI findings;

(c) the names of the persons involved in the criminal conspiracy; and

(d) what action is taken by Government against the persons involved in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) According to the Central Bureau of Investigation Report, the CBI is investigating into illegal siphoning of the funds of the Seafarers Welfare fund Society to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation has reported that the following five persons, who in conspiracy with one another, committed fraud and cheated Seafarers Welfare Fund Society to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs should be prosecuted in the Court of Law under Sections 120-B, 420,409, 477-A of Indian Penal Code and Section 13(2) read with 13(l)(d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988:—

1. Shri Suresh Laxman Gogate, Senior Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda, Wadala Branch, Bombay.

2. Shri Nand Kishore Prasad, Former Deputy Director General of Shipping, Bombay.

3. Shri Suresh Babu Malage, Private Person.

4. Dr. Leo Barnes, General Secretary, National Union of Seafarers of India, Bombay.

5. M/s. Jount Mary Enterprises, Bombay (Represented by Shri S. B. Malage, Accused No. 3 above).

The Central Bureau of Investigation has filed charge sheets against the above named persons on 18.8.1995. In addition, the CBI has found the following four persons involved in the case for the lapses in discharging their duties and has recommended suitable action against them:—

1. Shri Suresh S. Darekar, Senior Manager, Accounts Department, Bank of Baroda, Wadala Branch, Bombay.

2. Shri K. S. Balakrishnan, Manager, Current Accounts Department, Bank of Baroda, Wadala Branch, Bombay.

3. Shri S. B. Chitre, Manager, fixed Deposit Section, Bank of Baroda, Wadala Branch, Bombay.

4. Shri R. Parmeswaran, the then Accounts Officer, Seafarers Welfare fund Society, BomBay.

(d) Apart from the charge sheet filed by the CBI, as referred to above, the Government has initiated action under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules,

1972, and Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and appeal) Rules, 1965, against Shri N. K. Prasad, former Deputy Director General of Shipping, Bombay. The services of Shri R. Parmeswaran, the then Accounts Officer, Seafarers Welfare fund Society, Bombay have been terminated. According to the reply received from the Bank of Baroda, Bombay, Shri Suresh Laxman Gogate, Senior Branch Manager, Bank of Baroda, has been put under suspension and has been served with show cause letter. Shri Suresh S. Darekar, Senior Manager, Bank of Baroda and Shri K. S. Balakrishnan, Manager, Bank of Baroda have also been issued show cause letter by Bank of Baroda.

Cargo movement between Calcutta and Guwahati

1639. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd. (CIWTC) has any plans to extend regular service for cargo movement between Calcutta and Guwahati upto Dibrugarh; if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) proposes to implement the scheme to develop and maintain a minimum of 2 metre depth in Guwahati-Dibrugarh stretch and to develop a terminal with cargo handling facility at Dibrugarh; and

(c) whether CIWTC and/or IWAI have any plans to operate river services for passenger traffic between Guwahati and Dibrugarh; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The CIWTC is regularly plying vessels from Calcutta to Guwahati. It is carrying up cargo like foodgrains, cement and the down corgo carried by it is limestone. The CIWTC is planning to go beyond Guwahati upto Dibrugarh to carry construction materials as well as over-dimensional cargo for the proposed Numalligarh Refinery on the bank of the river stream Dhansiri, to be followed by another power project expected to come up at Amgani near Neamati in Jorhat District of upper Assam.

(b) A scheme at a cost of Rs. 217 lakhs has been approved by the IWAI board for carrying out river conservancy works in Dhubri-Dibrugarh stretch to develop and maintain 2 metre depth during 1995-96. This is being implemented subject to availability of funds. It is also proposed to provide a floating terminal at Dibrugarh by using one of the floating pontoons to be taken over from Governments of Assam shortly.

(c) The CIWTC has no plans to operate passenger river service. As regards IWAI, the operation of river service falls outside the sphere of its functions, as laid down in the IWAI Act, 1985.

Associated Gas Flared in Assam

1640. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 1992-93, 686 MCM of associated gas, representing 33% of the production, was flared in Assam;

(b) if so, the quantity of total gas production and gas flared in 1993-94;

(c) whether inspite of the above, existing allocation of lean gas to consumers like HFCL, Namrup, was reduced leading to loss of production; and

(d) whether 300 TPD Methanol Plant expansion plan of Assam Petro Chemicals Ltd. is being held up for non-allocation of gas; if so, the reasons for non-untilisation of flared gas for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM